

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 173301
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173301

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PK

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: REVISION OF COUNTRY EVALUATION
PLAN FOR PAKISTAN

REF: (A) STATE 142242; (B) ISLAMABAD 6517

1. THE EVALUATION PLAN HAD BEEN COMPLETED ON THE BASIS OF
THE DRAFT CONTAINED REF A, AS AMENDED AND AMPLIFIED BY EM-
BASSY'S THOUGHTFUL AND WELL-WRITTEN CONTRIBUTION CONVEYED
REF B.

2. THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IN PAKISTAN MANDATES REVISION
OF THE EVALUATION PLAN. THE DEPARTMENT SUBMITS THE FOLLOW-
ING CHANGES FOR THE EMBASSY'S REVIEW.

-- A(1)(B) UNDER "CRUEL, INHUMAN, OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENT"
ADD "THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION (MLA) HAS INSTITUTED
THE PUNISHMENT OF AMPUTATION OF THE HAND FOR CONVICTION FOR
SERIOUS THEFT AND PUBLIC WHIPPING FOR OUTRAGING FEMALE
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PAGE 02 STATE 173301

MODESTY. THESE TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC SENTENCES, ALTHOUGH
PERHAPS REPUGNANT TO SOME MORAL SYSTEMS, APPARENTLY ENJOY
TRADITIONAL POPULAR SANCTION IN PAKISTAN."

-- A(1)(C) UNDER "ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT" DELETE
"IF THE EMERGENCY, IN EFFECT SINCE 1971, IS LIFTED AS PART
OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE

OPPOSITION, THEN DPR WOULD BE BE RESCINDED." IN ITS PLACE,
"THE MARTIAL LAW REGULATIONS AND COURTS ESTABLISHED ON
JULY 5 PRESCRIBE STRINGENT PENALTIES AND SUMMARY TRIAL
WITHOUT RIGHT TO APPEAL FOR NUMEROUS CIVIL AND CRIMINAL
OFFENSES. HOWEVER, THE MLA AND COURTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED
TO FUNCTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE SUSPENDED
1973 CONSTITUTION AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS." ADD AS LAST
SENTENCE "THE MLA HAS RELEASED OVER 30 POLITICAL PRISONERS
HELD INCOMMUNICADO IN AZAD ('FREE') KASHMIR FOR UP TO
15 MONTHS."

-- A(1)(D) ADD "THE MLA HAS ABOLISHED ALL SPECIAL TRIBUNALS
ESTABLISHED UNDER THESE ACTS EXCEPT THE HYDERABAD COURT
HEARING THE CASE OF ERSTWHILE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
WALI KHAN AND SOME 50 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BANNED NATIONAL
AWAMI PARTY."

-- 2(C) UNDER RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES--
DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PROCESSES, ADD "THE MLA HAS TEMPORARILY
SUSPENDED ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. IT HAS PUBLICLY COM-
MITTED ITSELF TO PERMITTING AN OPEN ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN
SEPTEMBER AND FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS, SUPERVISED BY THE
JUDICIARY AND THE ARMED FORCES, ON OCTOBER 7."

-- 3(B) UNDER "GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND BASIC NEEDS," ADD
"THE MLA HAS MOVED TO SUSPEND AND INVESTIGATE OFFICIALS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 173301

AND BUREAUCRATS WIDELY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ARBITRARY
AND/OR CORRUPT."

-- 5 ADD TO PARA 2 "A LARGE NUMBER OF PERSONS IMPRISONED
BY THE PREVIOUS REGIME FOR POLITICAL REASONS HAVE BEEN
FREED. THESE INCLUDE MANY PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN ON AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL'S LIST OF 'PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE'."

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